

**SHREWSBURY'S ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT
&
SHREWSBURY'S COMMUNITY CABLEVISION**

COMMISSION MEETING

February 2, 2004 – 7:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: C. JEFFERSON, Jr., Chairman
S. DAVIS
R. LUTZ
P. LYONS-GALLO
A. TRIPPI

ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS

PRESENT: T. JOSIE
M. QUITADAMO

1. Approve Bill Schedules

The bill schedules were reviewed and approved as presented.

2. Minutes – Light Commission Meeting – January 5, 2004

A motion:

To approve the minutes of the January 5, 2004 Light Commission meeting was made by R. Lutz and seconded by A. Trippi.

After further discussion, the minutes were accepted with the addition to Item 4, first bullet “ and Internet services.”

3. December Cash Statements

a. Light

M. Quitadamo presented the December Light Cash Statements.

After a brief discussion, the statements were accepted as presented.

b. CATV

M. Quitadamo presented the December CATV Cash Statements.

After a brief discussion, the statements were accepted as presented.

4. In Lieu of Tax Payment

T. Josie commented that the “legacy” formula was used to calculate the Light “In Lieu of Tax Payment” to the Town and the CATV amounts were in conformance with the CATV Franchise Agreement.

A motion:

To make in lieu of tax payments to the Town, in accordance with established formulas, for the Town’s Fiscal 2005 in the amount of \$115,606 for Electric and \$382,062 for CATV was made by S. Davis and seconded by A. Trippi.

Without further discussion, the motion was voted unanimously.

5. Town Web Site Additions

T. Josie commented that the new Web Administrator, Jackie Pratt, is doing an exceptional job staying current, talking with all of the department heads and being very creative.

He reported that some Town department heads have expressed interest in additional applications and interactive systems. For example, Angela Snell, Director - Parks & Recreation, would like to add on-line registrations. Bob Ellia, Town Assessor, is interested in putting assessor information on line however there’s a start up cost of \$3,900 with an annual support fee of \$1,500. The Town does not have any additional money to fund these projects, however, a viable option would be to obtain funds from private sponsors.

He also suggested that a policy be created to address the new service if the Commission accepts the project.

After further discussion, the Commission concurred that they are in favor of the project and directed the General Manager to discuss the service further with the Town Manager.

6. Direct Load Control Program – DEED Grant

T. Josie reported that Shrewsbury might be participating in a direct load control program.

An equipment manufacturer approached Shrewsbury recently promoting a system of direct load control of central air conditioner systems via a combination of Internet interface, remote accessible meters and thermostats - the purpose is to control energy consumption during peak periods when the spot prices are high providing an opportunity to reduce energy cost.

Shrewsbury, in turn, asked MMWEC if they would be interested in a pilot program. MMWEC expressed interest and following MMWEC Board approval, applied for a DEED grant. Because MMWEC is not a member of DEED and Shrewsbury is, MMWEC asked Shrewsbury to become the applicant for the grant with MMWEC as the administrator. Shrewsbury agreed. Whether or not Shrewsbury obtains the grant, Shrewsbury will be involved in the pilot program.

Updates to follow as they become available.

7. Strategic Discussion – Fiber Utilization

T. Josie reported that he had discussions with consultants from R.W. Beck who had worked previously with the Braintree cable operations finding ways in which Braintree could increase their revenue. One option would be to utilize available fiber plant for the theoretical “last mile” of the system that would be used for telecommunication purposes, i.e. leasing/renting to MCI, AT&T et al, whose main target would be local and primarily to businesses.

T. Josie asked, how far does the Commission want to go to maximize the utilization of the present fiber plant? From a policy standpoint, does Shrewsbury want to start leasing dark fiber to third parties?

C. Jefferson, Jr. suggested the General Manager schedule another strategic planning meeting and invite various consultants to consider other business opportunities.

After further discussion, the Commission agreed to move forward with scheduling another strategic planning meeting.

8. Power Supply and the January Cold Snap

T. Josie reported that a new winter peak was reached, January 15, 2004, up about 2% from last January. Kilowatt-hour consumption for the month was up approximately 2% from last year however the numbers are a bit distorted because the reduction load from Hewlett Packard's phasing out was down about 2%.

He also noted that Shrewsbury's generators were run for thirty-six hours in January alone as compared to 2003 where the generators ran a total of forty-eight hours for the whole year.

9. Globe Deregulation Article – 01/25/04

T. Josie reported that the *Globe* article reiterates the lack of energy suppliers for the residential market. "Standard Offer" expires in March 2005 whereby all residential customers will have "Default Service."

Massachusetts is presently looking at alternatives.

10. Operating Brief – Review

The Commission reviewed the Operating Brief.

- HDTV customers have increased to a total of 196 customers.

The next Light Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1, 2004 at 7:00PM.

A motion,

To adjourn the meeting was made by S. Davis and seconded by R. Lutz.

After no further discussion, the motion was voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony M. Trippi, Clerk
Shrewsbury's Light Commission